$13.6 Million Boost for Undergrounding Power

The Northern Territory Government will inject $13.6 million over the next two years to deliver more underground power to Darwin’s older suburbs.

The Government will fund $16.6 million in Budget 2008 - an extra $13.6 million - with work to occur over the next 18 months.

Minister for Essential Services, Kon Vatskalis, said the additional funding in the upcoming Budget will focus on completing the Rapid Creek program and delivering underground power to Millner.

“The Northern Territory Government is investing in underground power so people living in older Darwin suburbs have less outages during storms and cyclones,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“This $13.6 million will complete works in Rapid Creek by December and deliver underground power to Millner by the end of next year.

“Since 2001 this Government has committed $39.1 million to undergrounding power. So far 698 lots in Nightcliff have been completed.

“Severe weather is a fact of life in the Top End and underground power is more reliable because it is not susceptible to falling tree branches – the number one cause of power outages in the Territory.

“Undergrounding power is not a quick or easy job, and we are investing this extra $13.6 million to see more families in Rapid Creek and Millner enjoying a better power supply sooner.”

There are 676 lots in Rapid Creek and 668 lots in Millner that will receive underground power. The Rapid Creek program is 75% complete and design work for Millner is 50% complete.

“Last Budget we announced a record Power and Water Infrastructure spend of $814 million over five years to deliver upgrades and meet the challenges of a growing population,” said Mr Vatskalis.

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